

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 37, Number 11R

November 2012 (Replacement)

(The original version of this newsletter contained *serious* technical flaws. Please see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue for further details)

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting - Friday, November 2nd, 8 to 10 PM

John Raff will present Home Automation.

(http://www.acgnj.org/temp/home_auto.html)

Window Pains Meeting - Friday, Nov. 16th, 8 to 10 PM

Almost four and a half years after his previous visit, Dave Marra from Apple returns to ACGNJ. Once again, he'll speak about the MAC.

Known for his dynamic delivery style and exciting demos, Dave Marra has conducted thousands of technology presentations, keynote addresses and workshops for schools, Mac and PC user groups, businesses and other professional organizations across the United States and Canada. Certified as both an Apple Certified Technical Coordinator and an Apple Certified Systems Administrator, his specialty areas include digital multimedia, internet technologies, accessibility and Mac/PC integration.

Elections Are Coming!

Next month's Main Meeting will also be our Annual Business Meeting and Elections. Ideally, we should have a complete slate of candidates to publish in this month's newsletter; but as has happened before, we're still looking for volunteers to fill a few of our open positions. So please think about running for office. More than anything else, our club needs **YOU!**



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Oct. 29, 7:00 PM

Evan Williams (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, November 2. 8:00 PM

Evan Williams (president (at) acgnj.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Mon. November 5, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Investing: Thursday, November 8, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, November 9, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Layman's Forum: Monday, November 12, 8:00 PM

Matt Skoda (som359 (at) aol.com)

Hardware Workshop: Monday, November 12, 8 PM

Mike Reagan (hardware (at) acgnj.org)

Java: Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 PM

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

WebDev: Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 PM

Evan Williams (president (at) acgnj.org)

Window Pains: Friday, November 16, 8:00 PM

John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Firefox: Monday, November 19, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, November 20, 7:30 PM

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) iee.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Mon. December 3, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back page. ☺

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ACGNJ News

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to *membership@acgnj.org* or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>).

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Logo Mania

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

As part of my fairly recent article *Publish and Perish* (in our April 2012 issue). I outlined what I presumed to be my more-or-less final designs for the ACGNJ logos that I intended to use in this newsletter for the foreseeable future. Then I developed a serious (but **not** life-threatening) problem in my left foot, and I was hospitalized for an extended period. While there, I got bored, went crazy, and designed even more ACGNJ logo variants. Rather than getting right to them, though, lets jump further back in time instead. (Of necessity, some of the excessive verbiage below has been re-copied more or less verbatim from *Publish and Perish*. If it gives you an attack of *deja vu*, I apologize).

For our August 2009 issue, I wrote an article named *Fun With Fonts*. Among other things, it displayed copies of many ACGNJ logos that we'd used up to that point in time. Last month, in *Mark of the Gremlins*, I recycled a few of those logos as part of a "Halloween Joke". This month, I've produced a new sequence of images, illustrating ACGNJ logos both

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used on our newsletter front pages for many years, except that it was much "crisper" and **didn't** contain a copyright sign. As far as I could tell, it wasn't being used anywhere else. So I used it on page one of our August 2009, August 2010, August 2011 and January 2012 issues. Then, on January 19th, 2012, I converted acgnj-1.gif into the PNG image file format (and I gave it a good old DOS 8.3 file name by capitalizing all of its letters, too). That made it ACGNJ-1.PNG. (I'll have more to say about this logo later, further below).

The third logo is named **acgnj2.png**. It's used as the heading for most of the pages on our club website; and I wanted to use it on some award certificates that I was designing in 2008. However, I needed to make a **very** small copy; and when shrunk to the required size, its letters bled together and became unreadable. So now we move fully into my own handiwork. Using a graphics file editor, I cut acgnj2.png into five pieces (one for each letter), and then I moved those letters further apart. For reasons I can't remember anymore, I named my newly created file **acgnj4.GIF**; and I've used it on award certificates ever since.

I've used it on some of our newsletter front pages, too. Specifically: End-of-Year 2008 Supplement, July 2009, July 2010, and July 2011. On January 20th, 2012, I converted acgnj4.GIF into the PNG image file format (and I also capitalized all of its letters, just like I'd done with ACGNJ-1.PNG). Then, for February 2012, I used my new file **ACGNJ4.PNG** on our

old and new. This updated group is quite comprehensive, so there's no real need for anyone to refer back to *Fun With Fonts*. (However, if you're curious, the August 2009 issue is easily accessible through our website, or on our Newsletter Collection CD).

We'll start with the three logos I found over four years ago, in the **/images** subdirectory of our club website. The first is named **acgnj.gif**. From its lack of a number and "plain vanilla" looks, I'd guess that it's the oldest one there, but I don't know for sure. It's used as the the heading on four of our web pages ("Ask the Guru", "Chairperson Responsibilities", "Contacting ACGNJ" and "Getting Involved with ACGNJ"). I'd guess that those pages are "leftovers" from the earliest days of our website, but again, I don't know for sure. Having acknowledged its existence here, I have **no** further plans to use this logo in any other way.

The second logo is named **acgnj-1.gif**. When I discovered it, I noticed that it was similar to the logo

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AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY

acgnj.gif (From before 2008).



acgnj-1.gif (From before 2008).



acgnj2.png (From before 2008).



acgnj4.GIF, ACGNJ4.PNG,
ACGNJ4R.PNG (Keeper One, 2008)



ACGNJ4BW.PNG (Keeper Two, 2012)

Logo Mania, continued

newsletter's front page. As this article proceeds, all the similarly spelled file names may become confusing. (They certainly confuse *me*, and *I wrote* this thing). To cut down on such confusion, I'm going to assign temporary aliases to some of the more important logos. I'll call ACGNJ4.PNG *Keeper One*. (Because I *like* it, and because I intend to keep on using it).

Between February 28th and March 5th, 2012, I worked on three different (yet similar) projects. We'll look at *Project Two* first. On March 4th, I renamed ACGNJ4.PNG again, this time to **ACGNJ4R.PNG**. (The R is for "red"). The reason for the name change is because, also on March 4th, I made another copy of that file. Then, I used my image editor to change its background color from red to white, thus producing a file named **ACGNJ4BW.PNG**. (The BW is for "black and white", of course). I also put it on page one of our April 2012 issue (just to "get it out there"). For the purposes of this article, I'm going to designate ACGNJ4BW.PNG as *Keeper Two*.

But *why* did I make it? Well, that brings us to *Project*

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Now, from the above, you can probably guess why I created ACGNJ4BW.PNG (or *Keeper Two*). I was planning for the future. Someday, a TCF version of our April newsletter may have to be printed once again. Under my new scheme, such an issue would now require a black and white logo. Should that happen, ACGNJ4BW.PNG will be there "on the shelf", ready for action. On the other hand, when I first created ACGNJ3W0.PNG above, I intended for it to be a "Keeper", too; but later, I reconsidered. After all, it had *already* been used on our covers for five and a half years. (Or for **fifteen** years if you count the red versions as well). It was time to give something else a try. (More about that further below).

Next, to keep our sequence of images logically grouped, we have to jump *way* out of chronological order, to the *last* two ACGNJ logos I created (as of now). In late July, just to see what it would look like, I made a copy of ACGNJ3W0.PNG, recolored its background red, and renamed it **ACGNJ3R0.PNG**. (I picked the shade of red used by all of the logos in our website's **/images** subdirectory, because I like it better than the "red" color actually used in older newsletters). At the same time, for comparison, I made a copy of the logo from our **December 2011** issue, the last one created by Ventura Publisher. (I also used that image last month, in *Mark of the Gremlins*). Grouped together, I think these three logos make an interesting study, especially the background colors. As I'm writing this, I plan to publish this article in our November 2012 newsletter; and I plan to put

One. For many years now, our April newsletter has been our "TCF Edition"; but this year, the Trenton Computer Festival was held on March 10th. (Very early). So our March issue became the one to be printed in real ink on real live paper; and this time, I decided to do something "completely different". I've always been annoyed by how dark our red logos look on a printed page. Therefore, on February 28th, 2012, I went back to our December 1996 issue, to the very first logo that we ever put on a front page. (It was printed in black and white, as was everything else in those days). Employing my graphics file editor, I made a copy of that logo. (I'd also done that before, in 2009, for *Fun With Fonts*; but this time I re-started from scratch). Then I tweaked and otherwise punched up my new image, to produce the "cleanest" copy possible. I named the resultant file **ACGNJ3BW.PNG**; and I used it as the cover logo on our March 2012 newsletter. Later, I renamed it **ACGNJ3W0.PNG**. The zero does double duty, standing both for "the number that comes before one" **and** for "o" (original).



Logo Mania, continued

ACGNJ3R0.PNG on the cover of our *December* 2012 issue, to “get it out there”, and to close out the year. With that exception, I have **no** current plans to use **any** of these three logos ever again.

Please note that ACGNJ3R0.PNG was **never** intended to be re-used every other month on our newsletter covers. That honor was **always** reserved for *Project Three* (see below), which was created less than a week after ACGNJ3W0.PNG (also known as *Project One*). ACGNJ3R0.PNG was produced from a combination of curiosity and boredom-induced psychosis. I like it, I'm proud of it, and I think that it's worth preserving “just in case”; but as I said: after next month, I have **no** current plans to ever use it again.

Now we get to *Project Three*. On March 5th, 2012, I cut the copyright symbol out of ACGNJ3BW.PNG and pasted it into a copy of ACGNJ-1.PNG, producing a new file named **ACGNJ3R.PNG**. This new file was quickly renamed **ACGNJ3RC.PNG**. (The C stands for “copyright”); and it was published on the front page

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cover of our September 2012 issue. As of now, I have no plans to use either of these last two logos again.

That gives me both black and white and color “Keeper” versions of my “3” series logos, and the same for my “4” series. I'll be taking those four files with me as I move forward. (However, knowing how wacky I can be, who knows when I might change my mind again, or create something even newer).

Appendix I: Halloween Logos

Well. What's this? **Another** new ACGNJ logo variation. Why, that didn't take very long at all, did it?

I'm quite proud of ACGNJ4R.PNG (*Keeper One*). I've always thought that it's **perfect** just the way it is; but the fact remains that my “3” series logos (*Keeper Three* and *Keeper Four*) have copyright symbols in their upper left hand corners, while my “4” series logos (*Keeper One* and *Keeper Two*) **don't**. Furthermore, those symbols now have the force of tradition behind them. (**Fifteen years** of newsletter cover use). I did, for one brief moment, think about sticking a **very** small copyright symbol in the upper left hand corner of *Keeper One*; but I decided that it would be **too small**, and just not worth doing. I didn't

of our May 2012 issue. (I'm designating this logo as *Keeper Three*). In July, I made a copy of it. Using my image editor, I changed that copy's background color from red to white, and created **ACGNJ3WC.PNG**. I put this new logo on the cover of our August issue (to “get it out there”). After careful consideration, I decided that I liked ACGNJ3WC.PNG **better** than ACGNJ3W0.PNG. So I've proclaimed it to be the official black and white logo to be used on any future odd month newsletters that we might decide to actually print. (That makes it *Keeper Four*).

Back in January, when, I converted acgnj-1.gif into ACGNJ-1.PNG, I **intended** to use it on the front page of our March 2012 issue; but as reported above, I **didn't**. (I wound up using ACGNJ3BW.PNG instead). I finally used ACGNJ-1.PNG in our July 2012 issue, but **not** before I'd renamed it again, to **ACGNJ3R1.PNG**. Then, in late July, I made a copy of it, and used my image editor to change its background color from red to white. Thus creating **ACGNJ3W1.PNG**, just to see what it would look like. I finally put this one on the



acgnj-1.gif, ACGNJ-1.PNG
ACGNJ3R1.PNG (2009.10, 11, 01-2012)



ACGNJ3W1.PNG (07-2012)

even consider expanding the left side of the logo to hold a bigger symbol. That would have made it lopsided. Horrors!

Last month, in our October 2012 newsletter, I got the chance to try something. For Halloween, I resurrected the **1991 Full Moon Witch** from my good old DOS desktop publishing days. (She's part of a scanned-in cover on Page 9 of our August 2010 issue, reproduced inside my article *Forgotten Secrets From The Ancient Past*). I put her near the top of page one last month. (She's actually irrelevant to this particular article; but I was **very** proud of her once, so I decided

to mention her again here). In addition, I dug up a **Jack-O-Lantern** image from the Internet. Since that image was a GIF file, I pasted it into a copy of my older file acgnj4.GIF, thus producing the special-purpose logo **ACGNJ4HP.GIF**. (The HP is for Halloween Pumpkin, of course). I put this logo on our October 2012 cover; and I more or less challenged our readers to find it. Since that pumpkin is just about the same size as the largest possible copyright symbol that could have fit in the available space, I think it makes a good “test case”.

To *my* eyes, at least, it's barely perceptible under normal magnification; and I *already* know it's there. (However, it's easily visible under higher magnification). In my opinion, it's quite possible that *nobody* else will even notice it. As I write this, it's too soon for us to get any results, so we'll have to wait until next issue for reader feedback. Anyway, no matter what actually happens, this experiment proves, in my opinion, that inserting a tiny copyright symbol into either *Keeper One* or *Keeper Two* just *isn't* worth it. What do *you* think?



(Note: This logo is smaller than any of the other ACGNJ logos in this article, because it has been reproduced here in *exactly* the same size as it was on the front page of last month's issue).

See you next month. ☺

Memo To Software Developers: LEAVE ME ALONE!

*Walt Graham, President, Connecticut PC Users Group
CPCUG Newsletter (www.ctpc.org) president (at) ctpc.org*

It seems no matter how carefully I configure my computers and other devices to work the way I want, there's always some programmer just one step ahead of me. Just when I think everything is perfect, he or she manages to break it!

Example: after a couple of years of automatic updating, my browser of choice, Google Chrome, became sluggish. A Google search turned up a number of such complaints, but no solutions. Unable to find an answer, I switched to Firefox but noticed that some features I used all the time in Chrome (Duplicate Tab, for example) were missing. So I found and installed an add-on called “Tab Utilities Lite” that brought those features back. Problem solved – until this morning (Groundhog Day) when Firefox automatically updated itself to v10.0, thereby breaking Tab Utilities Lite!

Yes, I suspect the developer of Tab Utilities Lite will update his utility to work with Firefox 10, but why couldn't Firefox have pointed out the incompatibility *before* delivering the update, instead of afterward, and let me choose to keep using v9 for awhile longer?

Thirteen months ago my otherwise excellent online broker, E*Trade, updated an online application called

MarketCaster that I use for obtaining real-time quotes. It hasn't worked correctly since – it now shows totals in the “gains/losses” column as “minus 100%” in all my watch lists. Their IT folks have acknowledged and apologized for the problem but for over a year now they have either been unable to fix it, or perhaps it's not a priority – maybe other users don't bother totaling their watch lists. Immediately after the update I asked, “Can I return to the previous version that worked?” “No, there's no way we can do that,” they replied.

A few months ago my wife complained that Yahoo! had updated her online calendar requiring more clicks to get things done.

Recently my TomTom GPS started nagging me to update its maps. Thinking that could do no harm, I downloaded and installed the new maps. Before the update, I was able to drive for miles on the highway in peaceful silence. As I neared my exit, she (why is her name “Tom?”) would tell me to prepare to exit. But ever since the update, she chimes in at every exit along the way reminding me *not* to exit but to instead stay on the highway! So I can't live with her anymore but I can't live without her either. The workaround, of course, is to mute the sound – and

Memo To Software Developers, *continued*

risk missing the exit.

Intuit has now begun warning me that I need to update Quicken in order to keep downloading data from my financial institutions. What will the new version break? I can hardly wait.

Facebook users can likely look forward to some nasty surprises when the company goes public and updates the user interface to better monetize the site for its shareholders.

Videographers who rely on Apple's "Final Cut Pro" for their livelihood are up in arms because some months ago Apple made sweeping changes to the program that severely disrupt their workflow. For the first time in over a decade I won't be upgrading to the latest version of Samplitude, the wonderful audio software I use to make a living, because the latest version introduces new annoyances without addressing old ones.

With installable software such as Samplitude and FCP, vs. "the cloud," at least the user can choose to *not* upgrade but, unless you stay current, you lose a level of support and inevitable changes in the OS and

hardware environment will eventually render the old version useless.

So, all I ask is to be LEFT ALONE! When it's time to upgrade, bill me if you must, but let me keep working the way I want without spending needless hours trying to outsmart the programmers.

I realize we need to keep moving forward – the Firefox update, for example, may well contain some important improvements in security. But enough is enough! It's not that each individual change is a crisis – although some are – it's that we use so many different pieces of software these days, much of it embedded in various devices, that the totality of change can seem overwhelming.

Software developers might want to take a deep breath and ask themselves, "Is this change really necessary and what possible damage could it do?" – before adding another bell or whistle that might only cause more trouble.

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Choosing a Smartphone

Sandy Berger

CompuKISS (www.compukiss.com) sandy (at) compukiss.com

There are so many different smartphones available today that choosing between them can be difficult. Each phone and each operating system has many different pluses and minuses. So today, I'll give you a brief rundown of what you can expect in a smartphone.

Windows Mobile cell phones are just coming of age and they may well be a good choice in the future. However, right now the choice will probably come down to choosing between the Apple iPhone and one of the many Android phones that are now available.

The Android operating system is upgraded several times a year and new Android phones are released all the time. Apple, however only releases a new iPhone and a big update to their iOS operating system once a year. The new iPhone and iOS updates were released in October.

I have installed Apple's new iOS 5 operating system

on my iPad, so I have been able to take an in-depth look at most of the new features. Now I am ready to make my list of the benefits of each.

There is no doubt that the camera on the new iPhone is superior to almost all the Android phone cameras. The retinoid screen on the iPhone is superior to most Android phones. The exception is the Samsung line of phones with AMOLED screens that rival the clarity and crispness of the iPhone screen.

Apple's new iCloud service will automatically backup your iPhone to Apple's servers and let you sync your iPhone, iPad, and Mac computer. While using iCloud is easier than some of the Android syncing and backup solutions, there were things that I didn't like about iCloud. For instance, you can't actually see your data in the Cloud as you can with solutions like Amazon's or Google's online storage.

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Choosing a Smartphone, *continued*

One of Apple's biggest features is iTunes and the iTunes store. iTunes makes getting music and video on your iPhone easier than any Android application that I've seen. At this time, both the Android Marketplace and the iTunes App Store have hundreds of thousands of apps. The iTunes App Store, however, makes it easier to find the apps that you want. Also because of Apple's stricter app reviews, Apple's apps are more secure. However, the Android Marketplace has a higher percentage of free apps.

Some of the new features on Apple new iPhone are already available on Android phones. The most prominent of these is the Notification Center that Apple just added. This is a feature of Android that has been around for a long time and that I love. Now in either operating system, you can just swipe your finger down from the top of the phone to see all of your alerts, notifications, incoming messages, and incoming email.

The most unique feature of the iPhone is Siri, a personal assistant who will answer verbal questions that you ask. This would, no doubt, be very useful,

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applications it is impossible to go back a screen. In others there is an on-screen back button but the location of this button varies with each application. With Android, you can always go back to the previous screen with just one press.

The Android operating system also is more customizable. With Apple, you are restricted to small square apps. With Android you can use many different resizable widgets as well as the standard apps. All of this gives you many different customization options, but also adds to the complexity of the phone. With the iPhone you don't get so many choices. This makes it a bit more restrictive, but also makes it easier to use.

One other difference is that most Android phones have user-replaceable batteries, while an iPhone battery must be replaced by Apple at a greater cost. While this might not be important to the average user it may make a difference to a heavy-duty user.

Well, there are just a few of the pluses and minuses you will have to assess when you buy a new smartphone. Don't worry though; it is hard to make a

entertaining, and truly state-of-the-art.

Android phones also have voice capabilities. They use Google's Voice Search. Most screens that popup a keypad for text entry, also have a small microphone. Just press the microphone and speak. It is amazingly accurate and you can use it for everything from entering email text to searching to navigating to a point on the map. Probably not as sophisticated as Apple's Siri, but it works well.

Android phones also have some things that I love that are not available on iPhones. The first of these is the fact that you can get a larger screen size on an Android. All iPhones currently have a 3.5-inch screen. Several good Android phones have 4.3-inch screens. My aging eyes really like the larger screens.

I also like the four buttons on the bottom of the Android screen. These are very, very useful. There is a Back Key, a Menu Key, a Home Key, and a Search Key. They are always available. They do not change when the screen changes. The iPhone has just one button. Some will argue that this makes the phone easier to use. Yet, this is not always the case. In some

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bad decision as almost all the smartphones on the market today are both capable and useful.

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"Dear Santa..."

Crime and Conflict Over the Internet

Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
Newsletter: Drive Light (www.uchug.org) president (at) uchug.org

Recently my family and I were in Las Vegas and while we were there, another hacking incident hit the news. Zappos.com, an online shoe and clothing retailer, announced that they had been the victim of a cyber-attack. Being based in nearby Henderson, the reports on this company that I was previously unaware of (you can imagine how much online shoe buying I do) dominated the Las Vegas local news. Customer address, phone and email information had been stolen, but fortunately credit card info and account passwords remained secure.

This was just one more incident in an increasing trend of crime and conflict conducted over the Internet.

Reports of hacked computers and stolen commercial data have become commonplace. The Internet appears to be a prime medium for crime, with organized crime elements taking advantage of the easy access and anonymity. I've so far avoided being part of one of these data thefts from a major company

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greeting and a link. I recognized it as a scam, but my wife did not.

Fortunately, it appears the link only led to a Viagra-peddling website, as repeated cleanings of her computer turned up no malware. It appears that someone gained access to my sister's email account and used it to send this message to everyone in her email address book. After receiving this sham email herself at work, she changed her email account password and sent a warning out to all her contacts. That showed good web etiquette. I receive similar emails periodically from a friend's account, but he never responds to my warnings about his email account being hijacked. If you lose control of an email account in this way, at least let the provider know so the account can be closed. If you simply abandon the compromised account, you'll likely leave a zombie account out there to continue pestering your friends.

In addition to the criminal element, the political conflicts of our world are starting to creep into the Internet.

that I've entrusted with some of my personal information, but it is probably just a matter of time until I'm a victim too. I'm also under siege on a smaller scale, receiving several scam emails every day. Most are such obvious scams that I almost have to laugh. Is the head of the FBI or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton really going to email me about claiming foreign funds I previously knew nothing about? I have seen some pretty realistic emails from banks (mostly ones I don't do business with, but a few that I do), advising me to click on a link to avoid a loss of account access. A little restraint and outside research show even the most polished of these to be fakes intended to trick you out of personal information or plant malware on your computer.

The worst of these online scams try to use your own friends and family to trick you into lowering your guard. I recently received an unsolicited email from my sister, which was also addressed to a number of other family members. It contained only a vague

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While electronic personal communications can play a positive role in exposing repression around the world, and can be a tool for change towards more open and free political systems, the access to information can also be a weapon. Enemies of our country and way of life hack our government and commercial web sites to steal information and deny legitimate access. Our businesses and institutions may be under attack through the Internet by factions related to or agents of China, Russia or our middle-eastern adversaries. Our own government has formed cyber warfare elements and acknowledges that future battles may include skirmishes in cyberspace. It is speculated that the Stuxnet worm, which appears to have targeted uranium processing facilities in Iran, may have been the product of U.S. or Israeli intelligence agencies. Palestinian hackers steal and release account information from banks and institutions in Israel, leading some in Israel to do the same with information on Palestinians.

Where will all this lead? I'd hate to see the "Information Superhighway" that was supposed to be

Crime and Conflict, continued

our free and open Internet turned into the electronic equivalent of the highways in “Mad Max”, where danger lurks everywhere and lawlessness abounds. And speaking of laws on the Internet, we have recently witnessed online protests over U.S. Internet piracy legislation. A number of prominent web sites, including Google and Wikipedia, conducted partial shutdowns or redirections to protest pending legislation and solicit support from their users. The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect IP Act (PIPA) are bills under consideration by the U.S. Congress to protect intellectual property. Opponents claim the proposed legislation would harm free speech and reduce technical innovation on the web. I acknowledge online piracy is a problem, but also don’t want a solution at the expense of an open Internet. Hopefully our own government won’t soon be in the censoring business. We all have an interest in how this issue is resolved.

With all this conflict on and over the web, it makes me wonder if I’m taking all the reasonable measures I can to protect myself and my assets as I use the

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that connection.

Tablets of Clay

The crooks are not only after us on the Internet, but also in our electronics stores. Over this last Christmas, a number of iPad purchasers got the wrong kind of tablet. In Canada, a number of customers that purchased iPads at reputable stores like Best Buy and Walmart later found the box contained not a tablet PC but a slab of modeling clay. In perhaps more than a dozen reported cases, it appears crooks purchased iPads at these stores with cash, replaced the items in the box with the same

Internet. It is sometimes difficult to determine where “reasonable” fits in between “it won’t happen to me” and a bunker mentality. As I’ve moved my finances and shopping online, I’ve realized I’ve become more dependent on the Internet. By conducting all my banking activities, including bill payment and monitoring of accounts, on the web, I hope I’ve not made myself more vulnerable in the process. Am I safer not having bank statements mailed to me, or am I now more open to theft by hacking or scams? How would I access my money in a web-only bank account if the Internet should for some reason go down? It is great to be able to surf where I want, but does that surfing potentially expose me to malware that could capture my account information when I bank with the same computer? Is it paranoid to consider using a separate computer for banking and another for other web access?

It is exciting to think that the whole world can be accessed through that little RJ-45 Ethernet jack on your cable or DSL modem. It should also be sobering to consider that the whole world could be there in

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weight in clay and expertly resealed the boxes. The boxes were returned to the stores for refunds, and since they appeared to be unopened, they were replaced on the shelves to be purchased by unsuspecting customers. The first customer discovering this switch was thought to be a scammer by the store, but after additional cases were discovered, he was reimbursed and given an iPad.

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Copyrights, Internet create a difficult conflict

Toby Scott, Technical Advisor, Channel Islands PCUG, CA

Newsletter: The Outer Edge (www.cipcug.org) tscott (at) scotts.net

Now that the Stop Online Piracy Act and Protect IP Act (SOPA/PIPA) have been defeated, it is time to look at the dynamics of the conflict between copyright holders and Internet hosts.

If a publisher creates a book, you can do pretty much whatever you want to with it. You cannot, however,

photocopy it and then sell the copies. This isn’t much of a restriction as it is time consuming and expensive in paper and ink to make the copies and in almost all cases it is far easier to just buy another copy from the copyright holder. This has long been a precept of U.S. law.

(Continued On Next Page)

Copyrights, continued

Things changed with the advent of the Internet. Now, you can copy nearly anything and distribute it for nothing.

Copyright holders are justifiably irked that the sale of one copy of a work can result in the work being distributed to hundreds, thousands or even millions. What makes it even worse is that in most cases the people making the clones are kids. They have no money, criminal prosecution makes the copyright holders look like ogres and the public thinks the copyright holders are just a bunch of greedy slobs who want to deprive the public of what is rightfully theirs.

So, the copyright holders are attempting to force those who have deep pockets and control some layer of the Internet into being their enforcement arm. This flies in the face of current legal precedents originating with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The DMCA essentially provides a safe harbor for online service providers as long as they don't deliberately shelter copyrighted information.

SOPA/PITA was essentially an attempt to repeal the

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you don't remove it. People have already started making the accusation that their work has been pirated simply to shut up viewpoints they disagree with.

It is ironic that just about the time SOPA/PIPA died, the Justice Department closed down Megaupload, one of the largest file download sites. Megaupload allowed users to create accounts, upload files and share with friends. Certainly, lots of the material on the site was copyrighted by others, but a considerable amount was also family pictures, company material for sharing with employees and other perfectly legal material.

As it stands, no one who uploaded can access their data, so someone who thought the data was safe "in the cloud" is without it now. It is possible some may be able to retrieve their data, but appears unlikely at this point.

The key here is that a lot of data at Megaupload was perfectly legal.

Undoubtedly the majority of it was stolen copyrighted material. Not only is the founder in jail,

safe harbor provisions of the DMCA. Doing so would have made life much easier for the copyright holders. They could go after companies with deep pockets and force them to take steps to remove copyrighted material — or even prevent it from being uploaded in the first place.

The problem with this solution, at least as far as the online service providers are concerned, is that they would become (at least theoretically) liable for the publication of copyrighted material. Can you imagine Facebook trying to vet every post of every user before the rest of the public could see it? Could Google possibly know whether the content it indexes is copyrighted by the owner of the site? I host about 100 websites on my server. In most cases, I have no idea what my customers put up on their sites. Had SOPA/PIPA passed, we would have had to go out of the webhosting business. We don't have the resources to examine the content, nor the deep pockets necessary to fight if someone protests. And you can't just remove the material as soon as someone claims to be the owners and threaten you with legal action if

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but several employees are as well. It will be interesting to read the details of the criminal trial, assuming it happens in the U.S.

The fact that authorities were able to coordinate an international investigation has some believing that SOPA/PITA were unnecessary. Others claim that given that Megaupload was making hundreds of millions of dollars, mainly from people distributing copyrighted material, it is evidence that more needs to be done.

It is one thing to go after Megaupload, where it is certain that the bulk of the income comes from illegal activities, but it is vastly different for Facebook, where clearly the vast majority of the material is not copyrighted. How far should online service providers go to prevent copyrighted material from being distributed through their servers?

Perhaps more chilling is the thought that should the U.S. force online service providers to create software to screen content, foreign governments could then require them to screen content offensive to the government. Governments already require that they

Copyrights, continued

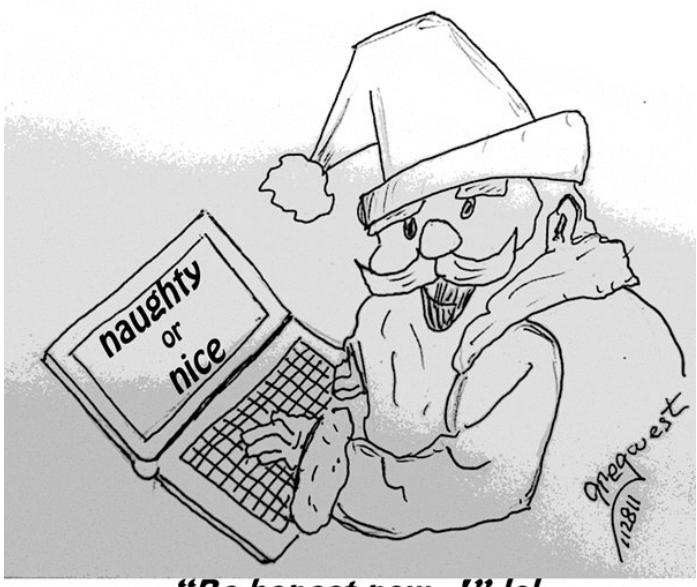
have a backdoor so they can listen to cell phone conversations, and they restrict search engines from indexing certain sites, so coercing online service providers to toe the line could be child's play. Software that screened for copyright would be more than powerful enough to screen for material critical of a government. That is, of course, if such software could be written in the first place. It's not clear that it could be.

At some point, the whole concept of copyright and

fair use will have to be revisited to take into account the technological advances that are rapidly outdating laws that were created 150 years ago. That's going to be exceedingly difficult. And it can't happen until all sides have a reasonable understanding of the issues the other sides face.

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Cartoons By Greg West



SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. **No** meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in he back room, most of our time was spent in talking about ast experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

SIG News, continued

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☐

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☐

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☐

Firefox

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☐

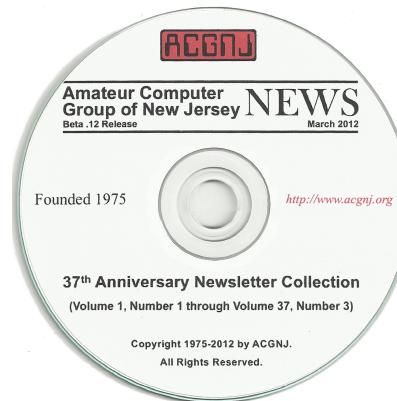
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☐

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☐

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

| Software | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| HTML | Mike Redlich | 908-246-0410 |
| | Jo-Anne Head | 908-769-7385 |
| ColdFusion | Jo-Anne Head | 908-769-7385 |
| CSS | Frank Warren | 908-756-1681 |
| | Jo-Anne Head | 908-769-7385 |
| Java | Mike Redlich | 908-246-0410 |
| C++ | Bruce Arnold | 908-735-7898 |
| | Mike Redlich | 908-246-0410 |
| ASP | Mike Redlich | 908-246-0410 |
| Perl | John Raff | 973-560-9070 |
| | Frank Warren | 908-756-1681 |
| XML | Mike Redlich | 908-246-0410 |
| Genealogy | Frank Warren | 908-756-1681 |
| Home Automation | Frank Warren | 908-756-1681 |
| Operating Systems | | |
| Windows 3.1 | Ted Martin | 732-636-1942 |

Discount Computer Magazine Price List

As described by the DealsGuy

| | | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|-------|-------|
| Computer Games | | \$10.95 | 20.95 | 29.95 |
| Computer Gaming World | | 14.95 | 28.95 | 41.95 |
| Computer Shopper1 | | 16.97 | 32.95 | 47.95 |
| Dr. Dobbs Journal | | 15.95 | 30.95 | |
| Mac Addict | | 10.97 | | |
| Mac Home Journal | | 15.97 | 29.97 | |
| Mac World | | 12.95 | | |
| Maximum PC | | 9.95 | 18.95 | 27.95 |
| Microsoft System Journal | | 21.95 | 39.95 | |
| PC Gamer | | 12.95 | | |
| PC Magazine (22/44/66 Issues) | | 25.97 | 48.95 | 68.95 |
| PC World | | 16.95 | | |
| Wired | | 6.00 | 12.00 | 17.00 |

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to:

Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496

Telephone: 561-488-4465, e-mail: hgoodman@prodigy.net

Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to their expiration date. I carry more than 300 titles at excellent prices — email for prices. ☐

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html and pay dues with PayPal.

| US/CANADA | Dues | | STUDENT | SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65) |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| | 1 Year | 2 Years | | |
| 1 Year | \$25 | | | \$20 |
| 2 Years | \$40 | | | \$20 |
| 3 Years | \$55 | | | \$45 |

Mail this application and your check to:

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

New Member Renewal Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

| Other Local Computer Groups | | |
|--|--|--|
| Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmuug-nj.org | Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org | New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org |
| Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/ | Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincoft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcuug.com | NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org . |
| PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360 | Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042. | NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org |
| Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com | Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909. | NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org |
| Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org | NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org | Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org |

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegrift@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



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The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups
<http://www.apcug.net>

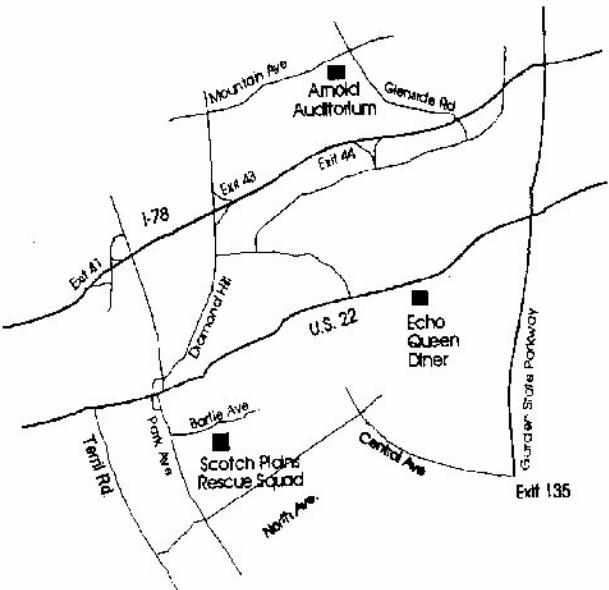
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐